

AMENDMENTS TO THE TITLE

Please replace the Title of the Invention with the following therefor:

--A SYSTEM FOR RATING OBJECTS ON A NETWORK--.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please cancel the heading “DESCRIPTION,” in line 1 on page 1 of the specification.

Please insert the heading -- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --, in line 5 on page 1 of the specification.

Please replace the heading “TECHNICAL FIELD,” with --1. Field of the Invention-- in line 6 on page 1 of the specification.

Please replace the heading “BACKGROUND ART,” with --2. Description of the Related Art--, in line 12 on page 1 of the specification.

Please replace the heading “DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION” with -- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--, in line 7 on page 4 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 2 and ending at line 8, as follows:

Preferably, the mutual rating system may further include one or more content providing terminal devices each having content stored therein and transmitting the content on demand, Moreover, and each rating information collecting terminal device may further include a content demanding section operable to demand a content providing terminal device having the desired content stored therein to transmit the desired content.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 9 and ending at line 23, as follows:

In this case, each rating information storing terminal device may further include a download history storing section having stored therein a communication history of content downloaded from ~~said the~~ one or more content providing terminal devices, each rating information collecting terminal device may further include a communication history collecting

section operable to, when demanding ~~said~~the one or more content providing terminal devices to transmit the desired content, collect a communication history related to ~~said~~the one or more content providing terminal devices stored in online rating information storing terminal devices, and the rating analyzing section may analyze the communication history collected by the communication history collecting section to determine whether to download the desired content from a content providing terminal device having the desired content stored therein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3 and ending at line 9, as follows:

Preferably, ~~said~~the one or more content providing terminal devices each may include an upload history storing section into which a communication history of content uploaded to the rating information collecting terminal devices is stored, ~~and said one or more~~ Moreover, each of the content providing terminal devices ~~each may~~ each determine whether to perform content upload based on the communication history stored in the upload history storing section.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 10 and ending at line 14, as follows:

In this case, the upload history storing section may store the communication history so as to be associated with content types, and ~~said one or more~~the content providing terminal devices each may refer to the content types to determine whether to perform the content upload.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 15 and ending at page 7, line 4, as follows:

Further, each rating information collecting terminal device may further include: a rating information input section operable to cause, after the completion of download of the desired content, the user to input rating information related to ~~said~~the one or more content providing terminals and/or content providers of the desired content, and to store the inputted rating information; and a rating information feeding back section operable to feed back the rating information stored by the rating information input section to other rating information collecting terminal devices and rating information storing terminal devices on the network, and each rating

information storing terminal device may further include a fed back rating information storing section which uses a prescribed technique to analyze the rating information fed back from the rating information feeding back section, and stores the analyzed rating information.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 17 and ending at page 9, line 2, as follows:

Preferably, the rating information collecting terminal device may further include a reliability information storing section having stored therein reliability information which indicates reliabilities of the rating information storing terminal devices and/or rating information providers present on the network, ~~and when~~. When obtaining a rating result, the rating information analyzing section may refer to the reliability information stored in the reliability information storing section and prioritize rating information provided by highly reliable rating information storing terminal devices and/or highly reliable rating information providers.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 7 and ending at line 12, as follows:

Alternatively, the rating information collecting terminal device may further include a content demanding section operable to demand transmission of desired content from one or more content providing terminal devices connected to the network, ~~each~~. Each content providing terminal device ~~having~~has content stored therein and ~~transmitting~~transmits the content on demand.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 13 and ending at line 16, as follows:

In this case, the content demanding section may automatically demand content transmission from ~~said~~the one or more content providing terminal devices based on a rating result obtained by the rating analyzing section.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 17 and ending at line 23, as follows:

Alternatively, the rating information collecting terminal device may further include a download history storing section to which a communication history of content downloaded from ~~said the~~ one or more content providing terminal devices, ~~and~~, Moreover the content demanding section may determine whether to demand content transmission based on the communication history stored in the download history storing section.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3 and ending at line 8, as follows:

Typically, the rating information collecting terminal device further includes a rating information input section operable to cause, after the completion of download of the desired content, the user to input rating information related to ~~said the~~ one or more content providing terminal devices and/or content providers of the desired content, and to store the inputted rating information.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 18 and ending at page 13, line 4, as follows:

A fourth aspect of the present invention is directed to a rating information obtaining program executed by a terminal device for obtaining rating information related to an object associated with a network to which a plurality of rating information storing terminal devices are connected, ~~each~~, Each rating information storing terminal device ~~having~~ has stored therein rating information related to objects previously rated by the user, ~~and~~ the rating information obtaining program causing the terminal device to perform the steps of: collecting rating information related to a desired object from one or more online rating information storing terminal devices; and analyzing the collected rating information to obtain a rating for the desired object.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 5 and ending at line 16, as follows:

In the present invention, rating information storing terminal devices connected the network own rating information about objects. Accordingly, when the rating information is required, each rating information collecting terminal device is able to collect the rating information from other terminal devices, and therefore the rating information storing terminal devices connected to the network are able to mutually check ratings for objects without using a central server. Further, content transactions and product transactions can be conducted based on the ratings for objects, for example. Furthermore, various objects are rated on the network, and therefore various transactions are promoted on the network.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 17 and ending at line 22, as follows:

Each rating information collecting terminal device is able to collect the rating information from all the online rating information storing terminal devices, and therefore it is possible to obtain the rating information as much as possible to obtain a rating result of a desired object, ~~whereby,~~ Thus it is possible to obtain a rating result having a higher reliability.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16 and ending at line 23, as follows:

In the case the communication history is analyzed to determine whether to download a desired content from the content providing terminal device, the rating information collecting terminal device (the content demanding terminal device) is able to collect the communication history from other terminal devices on the network, ~~and therefore,~~ Therefore, it is possible to determine whether to download the desired content based on a larger amount of information, resulting in more correct determination.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 16 and ending at line 20, as follows:

By feeding back the rating information, it is made possible to automatically ~~providing~~provide the rating information to other terminal devices on the network. Accordingly, terminal devices other than the rating information collecting terminal device is able to obtain the latest rating information.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 21 and ending at line 24, as follows:

By feeding back the rating information only to specific terminal devices, it is made possible to efficiently utilize communication environment on the network, while ~~provide~~providing the latest rating information to the specific terminal devices.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 5 and ending at line 7, as follows:

FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating the structure of a user terminal device ~~++~~according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 10 and ending at line 15, as follows:

FIG. 15 illustrate flowcharts showing the operation of a content demand monitoring section ~~++~~of a content demanding terminal device (a rating information collecting terminal device) according to the second embodiment and the operation of a content transmission monitoring section 113 of the content providing terminal device according to the second embodiment;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 20 and ending at line 22, as follows:

FIG. 17A illustrates an exemplary data structure of feedback information transmitted by a rating and reliability information registering section~~409~~;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 23 and ending at line 25, as follows:

FIG. 17B illustrates another exemplary data structure of the feedback information transmitted by the rating and reliability information registering section~~109~~; and

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 1 and ending at line 2, as follows:

FIG. 18 is a flowchart illustrating the operation of the rating and reliability information registering section~~109~~.

Please replace the heading “BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION” with --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--, in line 4 on page 20 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 1 and ending at line 9, as follows:

In response to a demand from a content demanding terminal device, the ID transmission processing section 106 reads the user ID of the content provider from the storing section 103, and transmits the user ID to that content demanding terminal device via the transmitting/receiving section 102. In response to a demand from a content demanding terminal device, the content transmission processing section 107 reads desired content from the storing section 103, and transmits that content to the demanding terminal device.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 8 and ending at line 17, as follows:

In the mutual rating system, in the case where the content demanding terminal device collects the rating information related to the content provider from the third party terminal devices, the content demanding terminal device broadcasts transmission of a rating information demand message to other user terminal devices 1 on the network. FIG. 7A is an exemplary structure of the rating information demand message. As illustrated in FIG. 7A, the rating

information demand message contains: a rating information demand identifier by which the message is recognized as the rating information demand message₂, and the user ID of the content provider.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 4 and ending at page 34, line 7, as follows:

Here, the predetermined condition is used for determining whether to ~~obtained~~obtain new rating information. For example, a conceivable condition may be such that "the last update of the rating information stored in the storing section 103 was within a prescribed time period from the current time". If the last update of the rating information was not within the prescribed time period from the current time, i.e., when the rating information is new, the rating information collection message generating section 112 does not obtain the rating information anew. On the other hand, if the last update of the rating information was within the prescribed time period from the current time, i.e., when the rating information is old, the rating information collection message generating section 112 obtains the rating information anew. Note that, when the rating and reliability information registering section 109 stores the rating information into the storing section 103, the last update of the rating information may be stored in the storing section 103 together with the rating information so as to be associated with the user ID. The predetermined condition may be such that "the reliability of the content provider is high". In such a case, the rating information collection message generating section 112 refers to the reliability information to check the reliability of the content provider. If the reliability is high, the rating information collection message generating section 112 does not obtain the rating information anew. If the reliability is low, the rating information collection message generating section 112 obtains the rating information anew. Note that the predetermined condition is not limited to the above-described conditions, and may be a combination of a plurality of conditions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 16 and ending at page 35, line 5, as follows:

At step S406, the rating information collection message generating section 112 generates a rating information demand message including the obtained user ID of the content

provider. Then, the rating information collection message generating section 112 broadcasts the rating information demand message to all the third party terminal devices on the network (step S407). Thereafter, the rating information collection message generating section 112 receives rating information response messages from third party terminal devices which have ~~responded~~responded to the rating information demand message (step S408). Note that the rating information collection message generating section 112 temporarily stores the received rating information response messages into the storing section 103. The above-described steps S401 through S408 correspond to the collecting process (step S101) shown in FIG. 6.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 35, line 6 and ending at line 17, as follows:

Next, the rating information analyzing section 110 of the content demanding terminal device refers to all the received rating response messages to determine whether the rating information has been received from any third party terminal device (step S409). If it is ~~not~~ determined that the rating information has not been received, the procedure proceeds to step S411. On the other hand, it is determined that the rating information has been received, the rating information analyzing section 110 calculates a final rating point for the content provider by multiplying the received rating information by the value of the reliability of the third party who has provided the rating information (step S410), and the procedure proceeds to step S411.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 37, line 11 and ending at page 38, line 13 as follows:

At step S411, the rating information analyzing section 110 causes the display section 114 to display the calculated rating point for the content provider. In this case, when it is determined at step S409 that the rating information has not been received, the rating information analyzing section 110 refers to whether the storing section 103 has the rating information related to the content provider. If there is the rating information related to the content provider in the storing section 103, the rating information is displayed on the display section 104. Note that in the case where the rating information demand message has to be broadcast, since step S403 determines that the rating information related to the content provider is stored in the storing

section 103 and step S404 does not determine that the predetermined condition is satisfied, the rating information analyzing section 110 cause the display section 104 to display the rating information stored in the storing section 103 which does not satisfy the predetermined condition. The display section 104 may display old rating information or even the rating information provided by the user having low reliability. In such a case, the rating information analyzing section 110 may cause the display section 104 to display that the rating information is old or the rating information is obtained from the user having low reliability. On the other hand, in the case where the storing section 103 does not have the rating information related to the content provider, the rating information analyzing section 110 causes the display section 104 to display that there is no rating information related to the content provider. The above-described steps S409 through S411 correspond to the analyzing step (step S102) shown in FIG. 6.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 53, line 24 and ending at page 54, line 14 as follows:

Once the content transmission processing section 107 starts uploading of desired content in response to a demand from the content providing terminal device, the content transmission monitoring section 113 starts monitoring of the uploading and ~~record~~records to the storing section 123 the number of successful and interrupted uploads as the transmission/reception history information. Note that in the case of recording the transmission/reception history information, when the user ID of the content demander is not registered in the storing section 123, the content transmission monitoring section 113 obtains a new space for the user ID of the content demander and writes the number of successful and interrupted uploads into the new space. Alternatively, when the user ID of the content demander has been registered, the content transmission monitoring section 113 adds the number of successful and interrupted uploads to corresponding fields, thereby updating the transmission/reception history information.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 54, line 15 and ending at page 55, line 4 as follows:

Once the download processing section 111 starts downloading of desired content from

the content providing terminal device, the content demand monitoring section 114 starts monitoring of the downloading and ~~record~~records to the storing section 123 the number of successes and failures as the transmission/reception history information. Note that in the case of writing the transmission/reception history information, when the user ID of the content provider is not registered in the storing section 123, the content demand monitoring section 114 obtains a new space for the user ID of the content provider and writes the number of successes and failures into the new space. Alternatively, when the user ID of the content provider has been registered, the content demand monitoring section 114 adds the number of successes and failures to corresponding fields, thereby updating the transmission/reception history information.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 55, line 5 and ending at line 16 as follows:

As described in the first embodiment, when collecting information related to the content provider from third party terminal devices, the rating information analyzing section 120 collects from the third party terminal devices the transmission/reception history information related to the content provider as well as rating information. The rating information analyzing section 120 analyzes the rating information based on the collected transmission/reception history information, for example, by aggregating the number of successes and failures of content exchange by the content provider. An ~~analyze~~analysis result is displayed on the display section 104 so as to allow the user to determine whether to download content.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 55, line 17 and ending at line 25 as follows:

FIG. 15 ~~illustrate~~illustrates flowcharts showing the operation of the content demand monitoring section 114 of the content demanding terminal device (the rating information collecting terminal device) according to the second embodiment and the operation of the content transmission monitoring section 113 of the content providing terminal device according to the second embodiment. Referring to FIG. 15, the operations of the content demand monitoring section 114 and the content transmission monitoring section 113 are described below.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 56, line 5 and ending at line 16 as follows:

If the content demanding terminal device has demanded transmission of content, the content transmission monitoring section 113 of the content providing terminal device checks whether the content transmission section 107 provides the content demanding terminal device with a response to the demand to transmit content (step S801). Then, the content transmission monitoring section 113 determines whether the response refuses download (step S802). If the download has been refused, the content transmission monitoring section 113 terminates the procedure. On the other hand, if the download has not been refused, the content transmission monitoring section 113 ~~check~~checks whether the content transmission processing section 107 has started upload of content (step S803).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 56, line 17 and ending at page 57, line 15 as follows:

Next, the content transmission monitoring section 113 determines whether the download has been unilaterally interrupted by the content demanding terminal device (step S804). Here, the interruption is intended to mean that disconnection from the content demanding terminal device has continued for a prescribed time period or reconnection has not succeeded within a prescribed number of attempts at connection. If the download has been interrupted, the ~~proceedures~~procedure proceeds to step S806, where the content transmission monitoring section 113 checks the user ID of the content provider and rewrites the number of interrupted uploads of the transmission/reception history information stored in the storing section 123 (in the case where the user ID of the content demander is not registered, transmission/reception history information related to the user ID is generated anew). On the other hand, if the download has not been interrupted, the content transmission monitoring section 113 determines whether content upload has been completed (step S805). If the content upload has not been completed, the content transmission monitoring section 113 repeats the process of step S804. On the other hand, if the content upload has been completed, the content transmission monitoring section 113 checks the user ID of the content demander, and rewrites the number of successful uploads of the

transmission/reception history information stored in the storing section 123 (step S806), thereby terminating the procedure.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 57, line 16 and ending at line 24 as follows:

Back to the description of the operation of the content providing terminal. Following step S701, the content demand monitoring section 114 determines the response ~~from when~~ the content providing terminal refuses ~~the to~~ download (step S702). IF the download has been refused, the procedure proceeds to step S706, where the content demand monitoring section 114 checks the user ID of the content provider and rewrites the number of refused downloads of the transmission/reception history information stored in the storing section 123.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 57, line 25 and ending at page 58, line 10 as follows:

On the other hand, if the download has not been refused, the content demand monitoring section 114 determines whether the downloading section has started download (step S703). Then, the content demand monitoring section 114 determines whether content upload has been unilaterally interrupted by the content providing terminal device (step S704). If the upload has been interrupted, the ~~procedure~~ procedure proceeds to step S706, where the content demand monitoring section 114 checks the user ID of the content provider and rewrites the number of interrupted downloads of the transmission/reception history information stored in the storing section 123.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 62, line 5 and ending at line 16 as follows:

A third embodiment of the present invention is different from the first and second embodiments in that after the content demander rates the content provider, the rating information is broadcast to other user terminal devices 1 on the network. The ~~structure~~ structure of each user terminal device 1 according to the third embodiment is similar to the user terminal device 1 according to the first embodiment as shown in FIG. 2, and therefore detailed description thereof

is not provided here. In the third embodiment, the rating and reliability information registering section 109 causes the user to register rating information, and thereafter the rating information is broadcast as feedback information to other user terminal devices on the network.